

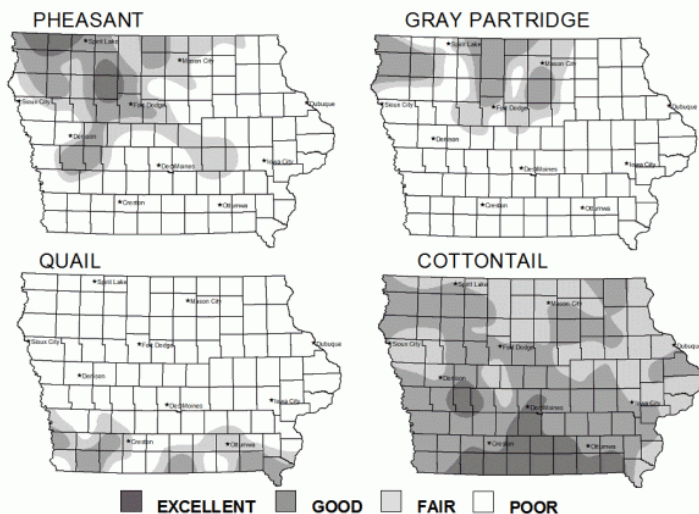
# Roadside Wildlife Counts

Each year the Iowa DNR uses a roadside survey to assess its upland game populations. This survey is conducted in early August on a sunny, calm morning with heavy dew. Most upland wildlife do not like to be wet, and often bring their young to the roadside to dry off prior to feeding. This gives biologists an opportunity to count the birds and evaluate the population.

This year northwest Iowa was the only segment of the state showing an increased pheasant population over last year. In fact, statewide the population of pheasants is the lowest since 1962. This year's index was 37% behind the 10 year average and 59% behind the historical value. The population decline was not unexpected due to the weather conditions - very high snowfall and intense spring flooding.

The other factor affecting upland game populations is habitat. These trends are more gradual and are only evident after looking at years of surveys. Information from the USDA shows that between 1990 and 2005, Iowa lost 2,496 square miles of pheasant habitat. To put this loss into perspective, this would equate to an 8 mile wide stretch of land from Omaha to Davenport! Overall, Iowa cannot produce the same number of upland birds as it did only 15 year ago due to loss of habitat.

## 2008 GAME DISTRIBUTION



Iowa small game distribution maps. Counts represent generalized game abundance. There can be areas of low game abundance in regions with "high" counts and vice versa.

## REMINDER

Mill Creek Park will be closed to foot traffic on the west side of the waterway from December 6 through January 25 - during all shotgun deer seasons. Permission must be obtained from the Conservation Board to trail an animal into the area.



*The Indoor Archery Range  
at the Prairie Heritage Center  
is open to the public on  
the 1st and 3rd Sundays  
of each month  
from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.*

## Hunting Regulations

The new hunting regulations are available. Check the Iowa DNR website at [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com) or pick up a hunting regulation booklet.



Highlights include a reminder to report your deer and turkey harvest by midnight on the day after it is killed or before it is processed or taken to a taxidermist.

The 2008 Iowa legislature passed a law requiring an antler tag for all bucks with an antler of longer than 7 inches.

Please report any suspicious activity you see to the TIP program or local conservation officers. Telephone numbers are listed on page 10 of this newsletter.